

the closing pages of *Trade Unionism*, in the original edition, had already laid the basis, since it is there suggested that not only does Trade Union history afford a rich field for economic and political research, it gives, in many directions, practical guidance to "the student of Democracy " That student

"is always deploring the narrow range of observation and experiment afforded by the brief histories of the few modern republican states To him the Trade Union world affords the century-old experience of a thousand self-governing working-class communities, with unimpaired capacity for adaptation and change "

In fact,

" their prolonged trial of the best-known machinery of representative government, and their frequent invention of new forms and devices for the better administration of their little republics—all afforded unrivalled material for generalisations full of significance to the philosopher and the statesman JJ¹

In *Industrial Democracy*, when it came out in 1897, these promises were amply redeemed Strange, now, to recall that when it was published, some critics "ridiculed the idea of attaching even so much importance to the workmen's organisations as to write a book about them " These critics were a defeated rearguard, the general tone of the press was given by *The Times* when it described the book as "a permanent contribution to the sum of human knowledge" and commended it to the public as a "monument of research and full of candour " *The Times* further said it was "indispensable to every publicist and politician " Indispensable it has remained In spite of the water that

has flowed under the bridges, between
1897^{and} 1920,
Industrial Democracy stands, both as an
analysis of Trade
Union structure and function and as
containing in its
latter pages both a classic defence of
Democracy itself,
and a classic exposition of the policy of
the National
Minimum, which runs, like a scarlet thread,
through all

¹ *History of Trades Unionism*, 1894 Edition, pp 475-
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